

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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P R 140023 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E. O. 11652 - N/ A

TAGS: PINS XH XF LE US

SUBJECT: SLANDEROUS YUGOSLAV COVERAGE FROM BEIRUT

1. ACCORDING TO FBIS REPORT OF BELGRADE TANJUG ENGLISH BROADCAST 1356 GMT, APRIL 13, TANJUG' S BEIRUT CORRESPONDENT M. AKSENTIJEVIC DESCRIBED QUOTE MASSACRE OF PALESTINIANS IN BEIRUT UNQUOTE AS QUOTE CIA RECKONING WITH PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT OR TO PUT IT MORE DIRECTLY IN RETALIATION FOR KHARTOUM UNQUOTE. WENT ON TO SAY THAT QUOTE CIA DID NOT WISH THAT ITS PROMINENT MEMBER (CURT MOORE) REMAIN UNAVENGED UNQUOTE.

2. AMBASSADOR ARMIN MEYER WHO SERVES AS SECRETARY' S SPECIAL ASSISTANT AND COORDINATOR FOR COMBATTING TERRORISM
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TELEPHONED YUGOSLAV MINISTER OSOLNIK AND REGISTERED PROTEST IN STRONGEST TERMS AND DESCRIBED TANJUG STORY AS INCREDIBLE. HE NOTED THAT USG HAS TAKEN UNUSUAL STEPS, INCLUDING SECRETARY'S CALLING IN ALL ARAB AMBASSADORS, TO DENY CATEGORICALLY ANY USG INVOLVEMENT IN ATTACK ON PALESTINIANS IN BEIRUT. MEYER ALSO EXPRESSED OUR STRONG RESENTMENT THAT TANJUG EVEN DUG UP CANARD LONG SINCE EXPOSED THAT CUR- MOORE WAS INTELLIGENCE AGENT. DESCRIBING TANJUG STORY AS MALICIOUS, MEYER REQUESTED GOY TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT FURTHER PROPAGATION OF SUCH QUOTE DAMN LIES UNQUOTE.

3. OSOLNIK ARGUED THAT TANJUG WAS NOT GOVERNMENT ORGAN, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED IT HAD GOY CONNECTION. HE SAID AKSENTIJEVIC MUST HAVE PICKED UP HIS INFO IN BEIRUT AND QUOTE MISREPORTED UNQUOTE. TOLD THAT WHATEVER THE EXCUSE SUCH MALIGNMENT OF USG WAS UNACCEPTABLE, OSOLNIK AGREED TO CONVEY USG VIEWS TO BELGRADE ALONG WITH OUR APPEAL THAT FUTURE REPORTING BE FAIR.

4. FOR BELGRADE: CHARGE SHOULD REPEAT THESE REPRESENTATIONS AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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